

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG TRAINING

REF: (A) LISBON 5965 (B) CUSTOMS 4936

1. REFTEL B STILL OPERATIVE. GOP PARTICIPATION IN USCS
DOG PROGRAM UNLIKELY IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE. TWO US CUSTOMS
DOG OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO SURVEY GOP CUSTOMS SITUATION
NEXT FEW WEEKS. SURVEY TEAM REPORT COULD AFFECT FUTURE
CONSIDERATION, BUT EMBASSY SHOULD NOT CONVEY OPTIMISM TO
GOP. PRIORITIES ARE CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY S/NM, BASED ON
MANY FACTORS. REQUESTED GUIDELINES WHICH FOLLOW ARE FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS
A CUSTOMS-TO-CUSTOMS OFFER.

2. MINIMUM BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL
NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM: (A) AGENCY MUST EARMARK
FUNDS AND ASSURE MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 232176

OF A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THE DOG PRO-
GRAM HAS PROVEN TO BE COST EFFECTIVE FOR US CUSTOMS, IT IS
EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF TIME INVOLVED, PERSONNEL REQUIRED,
TRAINING PROVIDED, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY.
(B) A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM OVERSEAS HAS THE BEST
CHANCE OF SUCCESS WHERE IT CAN BE BUILT ON THE BASE OF AN
ALREADY EXISTING DOG PROGRAM, SUCH AS PATROL OR SENTRY DOGS.

IN ANY CASE, THE AGENCY MUST PROVIDE FUNDS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR MODERN, SECURE KENNEL FACILITIES AT EACH STATION WHERE DOGS WILL BE USED, AND FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT, VETERINARY SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. (C) THE AGENCY MUST IDENTIFY BOTH ADMINISTRATORS AND DOG HANDLERS WHO ARE TOTALLY DEDICATED TO THE DOG PROGRAM; THAT IS ADMINISTRATORS AND HANDLERS WHO ARE NOT REASSIGNED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME TO OTHER DUTIES. A DOG AND A HANDLER MUST BE TRAINED TOGETHER AND ALLOWED TO WORK TOGETHER. (D) THERE SHOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE WITH THE NECESSARY SUPERVISORY AND TRAINING PERSONNEL TO ENSURE THAT DOGS AND HANDLERS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED, DOG/HANDLER TEAMS PROPERLY DEPLOYED, AND RETRAINING IS EFFECTIVE. IN THIS REGARD, AGENCY MUST BE PREPARED TO HIRE OR DEVELOP A PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER, AS THE PROGRAM CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT ONE. (E) TRANSPORTATION, VETERINARY SERVICES, AND OTHER BASIC SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE PROVIDED. A SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO USE IN THE CONSTANT RETRAINING REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE PROFICIENCY OF DOG/HANDLER TEAMS.

3. US CUSTOMS TRAINS DOG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR SUPERVISORS IN A 3-WEEK COURSE AT FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA. THE COURSE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATORS OF POTENTIAL DOG PROGRAMS WITH DETAILS OF THE STAFFING, PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 232176

CUREMENT, TRAINING, AND DEPLOYMENT PROCESS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM. THIS 3-WEEK COURSE WILL NOT TRAIN A PARTICIPANT IN HOW TO BE A TRAINER BUT WILL TRAIN EXPERIENCED DOG TRAINERS OR ADMINISTRATORS IN THE BASICS OF ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG PROGRAM.

4. IN ORDER TO TRAIN DOG/HANDLER TEAMS, US CUSTOMS HAS DEVELOPED A 14-WEEK PROGRAM THAT TRAINS BOTH DOG AND HANDLER AS A TEAM. THE TEAM IS TRAINED IN VARIOUS EXERCISES INVOLVING CONCEALMENT OF NARCOTICS IN AUTOMOBILES, FREIGHT, BAGGAGE, AND AIRCRAFT. AT THE COMPLETION OF TRAINING THE DOG IS DONATED TO THE HANDLER'S AGENCY FOR THEIR USE IN DRUG DETECTION. CHRISTOPHER

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